

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 15, 2005, the present application has been carefully reviewed and amended. Entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1 – 4 and 15 – 16 are rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the terms of the claim, and is believed to comply with 35 USC §112. Therefore, the rejection under 35 USC §112 is believed to have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 – 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Candeloro (US 6,045,374).

The Examiner relies upon Candeloro to disclose "an electrical module comprising a housing defining an exterior and a sealed interior, a male power and a receptacle with a plurality of blades 350, 352, 354 and a female power output receptacle 342 interconnected to a female power output receptacle 342." [Paper 07122005, page 3]

The Examiner further relies upon Candeloro to disclose "blades having terminal endings recessed relative to the connector housing. Figure 3 shows an integral projecting flange with a fastening aperture."

Applicant recognizes the blades 350, 352, 354 of Candeloro. However, these are not the recited "male power input receptacle having a plurality of blades, the blades being recessed relative to an adjacent portion of the housing" of Claims 1-4.

Figures 23 and 24 of Candeloro disclose the electric module and blades relied upon by the Examiner. However, the power input to the Candeloro duplex box is a plug 336 having projecting hot 342, ground 334 and neutral 346 blades. Specifically, as seen in figure 24:

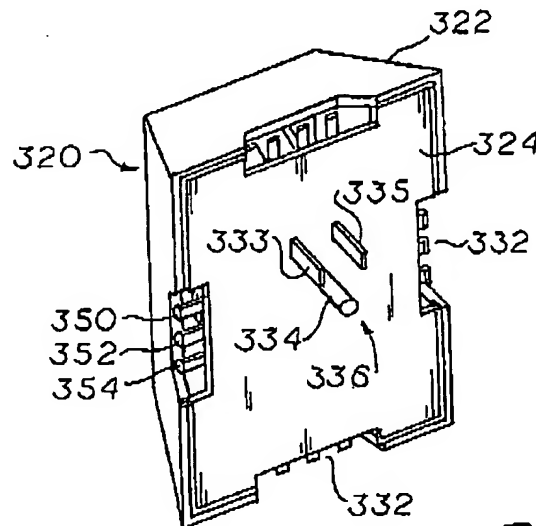


FIG. 24

The power input blades are not recessed relative to an adjacent portion of the housing as set forth in the present claims. Rather, the blades project from an adjacent portion of the housing.

⁴⁰ In a preferred embodiment of the connector 320, the base 324 of the connector is fitted with conventional hot 333 and neutral 335 blades and a ground post 334 to form a conventional three-prong plug 336 for connecting to a power source. The power is transmitted from the plug 336 to a grid (Col. 8)

Claims 1-4 further recite in part "a sealed interior precluding non-destructive access to the interior." No portion of Candeloro has been cited to disclose this limitation. Candeloro states in part,

The blades and post can be attached, for example, by threaded connections or by soldering. [Col. 9, lines 37-38]

These are not connections which provide not destructive separation. Rather, Candeloro provides for releasable connections.

The absence of at least these limitations precludes Candeloro from sustaining a rejection of Claims 1-4.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Candeloro in view of Zeder (US 5,347,095).


Candeloro is relied upon to disclose all the features of these claims except a relay connected to the blades and load circuit.

[Paper 07122005, page 3]

Claims 15 and 16 depend from Claim 1 and include all the limitations thereof. As set forth in response to the rejection under 35 USC §102, Candeloro does not disclose all of the features of Claims 15 and 16 and in fact is especially contrary to the recited features of these claims. For example, the recessed blades in the power input receptacle are not shown in Candeloro. Thus, the rejection under 35 USC §103 cannot be sustained.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits all the pending claims, Claims 1-4, 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If, however, the Examiner feels that any further issues remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned so that such matters can be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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